

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12
NEA-10 OIC-02 ACDA-12 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01
SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-09 OMB-01
PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 AGR-01 /193 W
-----000511 081714Z /53

P 081615Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6257
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 3827

FOR AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON FROM BILL MITHOEFER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS, CM
SUBJ: LOS-ENGO, PAUL

REF: (A) YAOUNDE 3255, (B) STATE 188840, (C) STATE 166820

1. PAUL ENGO IS STILL ON VACATION BUT BUSILY PREPARING FOR UPCOMING
LOS RESUMED SEVENTH SESSION; HOWEVER, I WAS ABLE TO SEE HIM
ON AUGUST 8 ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF PROBLEM REFTEL (B) REPORTED
SEPARATELY, AND HE GAVE ME THE FOLLOWING FORMAL RESPONSE
TO YOUR JUNE 19 LETTER (REFTEL C):

2. QUOTE DEAR ELLIOT, I DEEPLY REGRET MY INABILITY TO RESPOND
DIRECTLY TO YOUR CABLED LETTER OF JUNE 19, 1978. MY THANKS AND
PRELIMINARY REACTIONS WERE SENT THROUGH AMBASSADOR MABEL SMYTHE,
YOUR ABLE REPRESENTATIVE IN MY NATION'S CAPITAL. (NOTE: SEE
REFTEL A).

3. I HAD HOPED TO SEND SOME DEFINITE IDEAS BEFORE MY ARRIVAL IN
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NEW YORK. IT APPEARS TO ME AT THIS TIME THAT SUCH IDEAS WOULD BE
UNDERSIRABLE CONSIDERING THE NEW FACTOR OF EXTREMELY LIMITED
CONFERENCE FACILITIES AND THE NECESSITY TO RE-EXAMINE THEM IN THE
LIGHT OF DEVELOPMENTS AT THE IMPENDING MEETING OF THE GROUP OF 77.

4. AS I SAW THINGS IN GENEVA, THE RESUMED SESSION COULD HELP
CONSOLIDATE PROGRESS ACHIEVED. MY CONTACTS SO FAR, INCLUDING

THOSE WITH SOME OF YOUR WESTERN COLLEAGUES, INDICATE, SURPRISINGLY, THAT THERE MIGHT BE SIGNIFICANT DIFFICULTIES WITH A NUMBER OF AREAS IN THE TEXTS CONTAINED IN NG1/10 REF.1 AND THE ANNEX. THAT APPEARS TO PRESENT THE FIRST HURDLE.

5. I BELIEVE THAT WE MAY HAVE TO RECONSIDER THE DESIRABILITY OF MAKING NEGOTIATING GROUP ONE A FORUM UNDER THE WINGS OF THE PLENARY. I DO NOT KNOW IF YOU OBSERVED THE FUTILITY ITS PURPOSE ENCOUNTERED. THIS POINT MAY HAVE TO BE EXAMINED MORE CLOSELY, IF IT IS TO BE SADDLED WITH ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

6. I SHARE YOUR HOPE THAT WE SHALL BE IN A POSITION TO CONCENTRATE MORE FULLY ON NG2, WHICH I BELIEVE TO BE RIPE FOR NEGOTIATIONS. THE TERM "FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS" DOES NOT APPEAR AS FRIGHTENING AND MYSTERIOUS AS IT WAS UNTIL RECENTLY TO MOST PARTICIPANTS. TOMMY KOH'S GROUP REALLY DID A GOOD JOB TO MAKE THIS SO.

7. WITH REGARD TO THE QUESTION OF DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, I AM OF THE VIEW THAT PLANS MUST REMAIN FLEXIBLE. I BELIEVE THAT PROGRESS IN THE ABOVE AREA WOULD CREATE THE BEST CLIMATE IN WHICH TO TACKLE THAT DELICATE SUBJECT.

8. I THANK YOU FOR YOUR OBSERVATIONS ON THE WORK OF NEGOTIATING GROUPS FOUR, K VE ETC.

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9. I PROPOSE THAT WE ARRANGE A MEETING AT THE UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS TOWARDS THE END OF NEXT WEEK. I EXPECT TO ATTEND THE MEETING OF THE GROUP OF 77. MY WISH IS THAT WE ADVANCE OUR WORK AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE; BUT THAT WE ALSO ENSURE THAT WE DO NOT TAKE ON MUCH MORE THAN WE CAN CHEW IN THE LIMITED TIME.

10. I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING AND DISCUSSING MORE FULLY WITH YOU IN NEW YORK SOON. WARM PERSONAL REGARDS, SINCERELY, PAUL BAMELA ENGO, SR., CHAIRMAN, FIRST COMMITTEE, LAW OF THE SEAS CONFERENCE. END QUOTE.

11. PAUL IS PROBABLY LEAVING ON THE SUNDAY FLIGHT TO PARIS AND ARRIVING ON NEW YORK MONDAY AFTERNOON TO JOIN IN THE GROUP OF 77 CAUCUS. HE EMPHASIZED THIS LETTER WAS WRITTEN IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN OF GROUP ONE AND FOR THAT REASON HE WAS RELUCTANT TO COMMENT ON THE WORK OF OTHER GROUPS. MITHOEFER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW OF THE SEA, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978YAOUND03827
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780324-0539
Format: TEL
From: YAOUNDE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780885/aaaactkb.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: aafa6d66-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION DLOS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 YAOUNDE 3255, 78 STATE 188840, 78 STATE 166820
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1798887
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOS-ENGO, PAUL
TAGS: PLOS, CM, (ENGO, PAUL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/aafa6d66-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014